

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 AECE-00 DODE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 NEAE-00 /203 W

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P R 201710Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4890

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T 6918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, IT

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TESTING

REF: STATE 104647

1. (A) ITALIAN MEDIA HAVE DEVOTED MODERATE ATTENTION TO INDIAN
NUCLEAR TEST WITH COVERAGE THUS FAR LARGELY CONFINED TO STRAIGHT

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REPORTING. COMMENTARY WHICH HAS APPEARED CONCENTRATES ON POLITICAL

IMPLICATIONS OF TEST BOTH IN TERMS OF PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

AND SINO-SOVIET BALANCE OF POWER IN FAR EAST AS WELL AS EFFECT ON INDIAN ECONOMY. MOST PAPERS SKEPTICAL OF INDIAN CLAIMS FOR PEACEFUL USE.

(B) ALTHOUGH GOI IS NPT SIGNATORY, WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT ROME WILL INDICATE ANY SIGN OF DISPLEASURE TO NEW DELHI UNLESS STRONGLY URGED TO DO SO IN MULTILATERAL CONTEXT.

(C) GIVEN DEMONSTRATED GOI INCLINATION TO PROCEED WITH NO MORE THAN DELIBERATE SPEED TOWARD RATIFICATION OF NPT (AND SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT), WE CALCULATE THAT ITALIANS WILL LIKELY SEIZE ON INDIAN TEST TO REINFORCE THEIR DISPOSITION TO MOVE SLOWLY IN THIS AREA. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE GOI WILL USE TEST AS EXCUSE TO HALT RATIFICATION PROCESS COMPLETELY SINCE THEY ARE FORMALLY

COMMITTED TO THIS GOAL, ARE ANXIOUS NOT TO DISRUPT PROVISION OF NUCLEAR

MATERIALS AND UNDOUBTEDLY FEEL UNDER SOME OBLIGATION TO THEIR EURATOM PARTNERS TO MOVE AHEAD. OPPONENTS OF NPT RATIFICATION IN ITALIAN PARLIAMENT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FEEL STRENGTHENED BY INDIAN TEST, BUT WE DOUBT THAT THEIR FORCES WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO CARRY THE DAY ONCE THE TREATY COMES UP FOR A VOTE.

(D) US STANCE TOWARD INDIA IS LIKELY TO HAVE ONLY NEGLIGIBLE EFFECT ON GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD NPT RATIFICATION. VOLPE

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